

Appl. S.N. 10/807,887
Amdt. dated March 23, 2006
Reply to Office Action of January 26, 2006
Docket No. 200208977-1

6

REMARKS

The Office Action of January 26, 2006 has been received and carefully reviewed. It is submitted that, by this Amendment, all bases of rejection are traversed and overcome. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-16 and 24-31 remain in the application. Claims 17-23 and 32-40 are withdrawn as being directed to a non-elected invention, and have been cancelled without prejudice herein. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16 and 24-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Thamby et al. (US Patent No. 6,841,859). The Examiner states that Thamby discloses forming an electronic device in a chamber including forming a core material in a depression in a substrate; preparing the outer surface; and establishing a layer on the outer surface. The Examiner further states that Thamby teaches that the layer and the substrate define a chamber; that the layer is optically transmissive; and that the core material is a resin which can exist in two states depending on conditions.

It is respectfully submitted that the bifunctional core material as recited in Applicants' independent claims 1 and 24 is a material that exhibits a fluid state at a first condition and a solidified state at a second condition (see the specification as filed at page 9, lines 29-32).

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's assertion that Thamby discloses a "core material (which) is a resin which can exist in two states depending on conditions." Thamby discloses an epoxy resin (see Col. 3, line 1). One definition of an epoxy resin is "a 2-part adhesive system consisting of resin and hardener. It does not start to harden until the elements are mixed together." (see www.otherpower.com/glossary.html). The Merriam-Webster online dictionary defines epoxy resin as "a flexible usually thermosetting resin made by copolymerization of an epoxide with another compound having two hydroxyl groups and used chiefly in coatings and adhesives," wherein "thermosetting" is defined as "capable of becoming permanently rigid when heated or cured." (emphasis added)

It is submitted that one skilled in the art would be cognizant of the fact that an epoxy resin is not a bifunctional material, as an epoxy permanently hardens and does not switch between a solid state and a fluid state at different conditions. Rather, an epoxy forms and permanently hardens when two materials (resin and hardener) are mixed together. As

Appl. S.N. 10/807,887
Amdt. dated March 23, 2006
Reply to Office Action of January 26, 2006
Docket No. 200208977-1

7

such, Applicants submit that the fill material (i.e., epoxy resin) taught by Thamby is not the same as the "bifunctional core material" recited in the Applicants' claims.

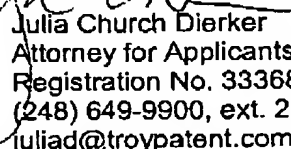
Specifically regarding the rejection of claim 7, Applicants submit that Thamby *fails* to teach "converting the solidified bifunctional core material...into a fluidized core bifunctional material subsequent to establishing the layer." It is submitted that there is *neither* an express *nor* an implied teaching in Thamby to fluidize the epoxy material subsequent to establishing a layer. In fact, Thamby *teaches away* from converting the solid material into a fluid, as he teaches using a fill material that becomes permanently rigid, which (described in detail above) it is submitted is **not** a bifunctional material.

For all the reasons stated above, it is submitted that Applicants' invention as defined in Claims 1-16 and 24-31 is not anticipated, taught or rendered obvious by the cited reference, either alone or in combination, and patentably defines over the art of record.

In summary, claims 1-16 and 24-31 remain in the application. It is submitted that, through this amendment, Applicants' invention as set forth in these claims is now in a condition suitable for allowance. Further and favorable consideration is requested. If the Examiner believes it would expedite prosecution of the above-identified application, he is cordially invited to contact Applicants' Attorney at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

DIERKER & ASSOCIATES, P.C.


Julia Church Dierker
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 33368
(248) 649-9900, ext. 25
juliad@troypatent.com

3331 West Big Beaver Rd., Suite 109
Troy, Michigan 48064-2813
Dated: March 23, 2006
JCD/ARM/JRK